

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /089 W

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R 191445Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4178

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 2418

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL SECNE

REF: NICOSIA 2324 (DTG 131113Z AUG 76

1. SUMMARY. THIS IS SECOND IN SERIES OF WEEKLY ROUND-UPS ON GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL SEENE WHICH HAS REMAINED CLOUDY DURING ABSENCE OF MAKARIOS AT COLOMBO. LIKELIHOOD OF TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED. MUCH DISCUSSED NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTER-PARTY COLLABORATION ON SLATES OF CANDIDATES, FINAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS APPEAR AT
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MOMENT TO BE SUSPENDED AWAITING ARCHBISHOP'S RETURN, END SUMMERY.

2. MAKARIOS' DEPARTURE AUGUST 13, FOR COLOMBO HAS DEPRIVED GREEK CYPRUS OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ACTIVIST. LEAVE-TAKING AT LARNACA WAS DE REGUEUR FOR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND LOCAL PARTY LEADERS. GLAFKOS CLERIDES WAS CONSPICUOUS EXCEPTION. HIS ABSENCE WAS DULY NOTED THROUGHOUT CYPRUS.

3. FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS BELCHER, CURRENTLY VISITING ON PRIVATE BUSINESS, LUNCHEDED AUGUST 16 WITH CLERIDES WHO BRIEFED HIM ON MEETING CLERIDES HAD HAD WITH MAKARIOS EARLIER IN MONTH. ACCORDING TO CLERIDES, MAKARIOS HAD CALLED HIM IN TO PLEAD FOR UNITY AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS AND SAID HE IS NOW SORRY THAT HE HAD PICKED KYPRIANOU TO HEAD THE PRO-MAKARIOS DEMOCRATIC FRONT PARTY. IN MEETING WITH MAKARIOS AUGUST 9, AMBASSADOR BELCHER HAD ASKED HOW ARCHBISHOP ASSESSED CURRENT POLITICAL DISUNITY IN GREEK CYPRIOT RANKS. MAKARIOS RESPONDED THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION THAT AS A RESULT OF SEPTEMBER ELECTION ALL POLITICAL PARTIES BE REPRESENTED IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. BELCHER TOOK THIS TO MEAN ARCHBISHOP WANTED CLERIDES TO HAVE SOME REPRESENTATION AND ASKED ARCHBISHOP WHY HE DID NOT ASSEMBLE ALL POLITICAL LEADERS IN ONE ROOM AND WORK OUT AN ALLOCATION OF SEATS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. MAKARIOS REPLIED THAT HE HAD THIS IN MIND AND MIGHT TAKE SOME SUCH ACTION UPON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO AUGUST 23.

4. MOST INTERSTING RECENT DEVELOPMENT WAS AUGUST 11 INTER-VIEW HOUSE PRESIDENT AND, IN ABSENCE OF MAKARIOS, ACTING PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS, TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS, GAVE TO ATHENS DAILY KATHIMERINI. INTER ALIA PAPADOPOULOS INDICATED HE IS CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR HOUSE SEAT AS INDEPENDENT FROM NICOSIA AND GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO FORMING NEW CENTER-RIGHT PARTY AFTER ELECTIONS. HE REGRETS THAT CYPRIOT CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES ARE AD HOC GROUPINGS OF EXPEDIENCE TO CONTEST ELECTION. HE WANTS TO FORM A PARTY OF PRINCIPLE FREE FROM THE PRESSURES OF A SPECIFIC POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. SUGGESTION THAT PAPADOPOULOS MIGHT BE RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT HAS RELEASED SPATE OF SPECULATION ABOUT HOUSE PRESIDENCY AND POSSIBLE CENTER-RIGHT COOPERATION. IN CONVERSATION WITH BELCHER, CLERIDES OPINED IF PAPADOPOULOS ENTERED HOUSE AS INDEPENDENT HE MIGHT WELL CONFIDENTIAL

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BE COMPROMISE CANDIDATE FOR HOUSE PRESIDENT. CLERIDES FELT BOTH HIS DEMOCRATIC RALLY AND KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT COULD SUPPORT PAPADOPOULOS. CLERIDES SUGGESTED THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE ELECTED HOUSE PRESIDENT AGAIN HIMSELF AND PREDICTED A MINIMUM OF 12 SEATS AND MAXIMUM FOR HIS PARTY IN THE 35-MAN HOUSE.

5. PRESS HERE CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ABOUT "POPULAR FRONT"

COLLABORATION OF CENTER AND LEFT. CURRENT CONSENSUS IS THAT LYSSARIDES' DEMAND FOR 6 SEATS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO AKEL AND KYPRIANOU, WHO THEREFORE ABANDONED ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE EDEK WHILE CONTINUING TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATING THEMSELVES. APPARENT FAILURE OF CENTER-LEFT COLLABORATION HAS FUELED INTEREST IN RIGHT-CENTER GROUPING OF SOME SORT AND PRESS HAS NOW STATED PROBING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES. ONE STORY HAS ANDREAS AZINAS (COMMISSIONER OF GREEK COOPERATIVES AND MAKARIOS CONFIDANT) ACTING AS CATALYST IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO BRING TOGETHER IN PRO-MAKARIOS GROUPING PAPADOPOULOS, NICOS KOSHIS (PUBLISHER OF PRO-CLERIDES DAILY AGON WHO PROMPTLY DENIED ANY POLITICAL AMBITIONS IN THIS ELECTION), HERACLES HADJIERACLEOUS (PROGRESSIVE FRONT REPRESENTATIVE FROM FAMA-GUSTA) AND KYPRIANOU. EQUALLY INEFFECTIVE ACCORDING TO ANOTHER STORY WAS ATTEMPT TO BRING CLERIDES, PAPADOPOULOS AND KYPRIANOU TOGETHER.

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R 191445Z AUG 76

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6. WHILE POLITICAL MACHINATIONS CONTINUE TO REFLECT CONFUSION, MODALITIES OF ELECTION APPEAR TO BE SET. CORRECTED LISTS OF REGISTERED VOTERS WERE DISPLAYED AUGUST 13 AND SEEM TO HAVE BEEN FOUND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE OR AT LEAST UNOBJECTIONABLE TO JUDGE FROM WAY CONTROVERSY-LOVING GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS PASSED OVER EVENT IN SILENCE. ON AUGUST 26 ALL CANDIDATES MUST DECLARE THEMSELVES TO BE INCLUDED ON BALLOTS. GOC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT BALLOTS WILL HAVE FIVE COLUMNS OF NAMES: FIRST FOUR COLUMNS WILL CONTAIN NAMES OF CANDIDATES FROM THE FOUR GREEK CYPRIOT PARTIES AND FIFTH WILL LIST INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES. DIFFERENT COLORS WILL BE USED FOR BALLOTS FOR EACH DISTRICT AND COUNTING WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN EACH DISTRICT.
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7. PRO-CLERIDES DAILY SIMERINI AUGUST 12 PUBLISHED ITS OWN PRE-ELECTION POLL SHOWING DEMOCRATIC RALLY RECEIVING 38.5 PERCENT OF VOTE FOR PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF 13 HOUSE SEATS, DEMOCRATIC FRONT 14 PERCENT FOR 5 SEATS, AKEL 19.8 PERCENT FOR 7 SEATS, EDEK 7.3 PERCENT FOR 3 SEATS AND 19.9 PERCENT UNDECIDED. POLL, WHICH WAS ONLY TAKEN IN NICOSIA, APPEARS TO BE (NOT SURPRISINGLY CONSIDERING THE SOURCE) QUITE SANGUINE ABOUT CLERIDES' CHANCES. 19.8 PERCENT FOR AKEL APPEARS UNREALISTICALLY LOW AT THIS POINT ALTHOUGH SOME DIMINUTION FROM 39 PERCENT PARTY GOT IN 1970 TRACKS WITH OTHER IMPRESSIONS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED EDEK'S SHOWING ALSO SEEMS LESS THAN MIGHT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED AND IS CONTRARY TO WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT EDEK WILL MAKE GAINS IN THIS ELECTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NICOSI02418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760318-0752
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760838/aaaabhae.tel
Line Count: 206
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 NICOSIA 2324
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL SECNE
TAGS: PINT, CY, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006